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For Immediate Release
October 21, 2021

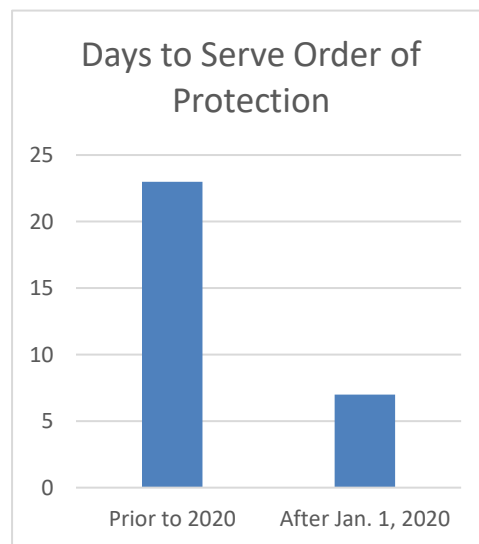
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NEW STATE ORDERS OF PROTECTION SYSTEM IMPROVES SAFETY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

***70% of Orders Now Enforceable within Seven Days Compared to 23 Days
before AZPOINT***

Phoenix, AZ, Thursday, October 21, 2021 – Today the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) announced the results of a review of the impact that the new Arizona Protective Order Initiation and Notification Tool (AZPOINT) online program is having on improving safety for domestic violence survivors. Since the launch of AZPOINT in January of 2020, 70% of orders issued by the court are served on the respondent within seven days. This represents a significant improvement in the length of time from the old, paper-based system. It took an average of 23 days from when a judge granted an order of protection until the time it was served.

“AZPOINT is one of the most significant technological innovations that protect victims of inter-personal violence that I have seen in my career. Here at ACJC, we are incredibly pleased with the improvement in the number of individuals timely served with Orders of Protections,” stated ACJC Chairwoman and Yavapai County Attorney Sheila Polk. “The primary role of government is to keep our citizens safe. By making the system more streamlined, accessible, and online, survivors of domestic violence have the assistance they need in the most efficient manner, which provides greater protections all the way around.”



Days from issuance to service			
-1 or fewer	286	0.7%	
0	9256	23.9%	
1	6572	17.0%	
2	3161	8.2%	
3	2225	5.7%	55.5%
4	1769	4.6%	
5	1518	3.9%	
6	1593	4.1%	
7	1576	4.1%	72.2%
8	1111	2.9%	
9	722	1.9%	
10	612	1.6%	
11	571	1.5%	
12	492	1.3%	
13	571	1.5%	
14	536	1.4%	
15	394	1.0%	85.1%
16+	5774	14.9%	
Total	38739		

Source: AZPoint – January 2020 – September 30, 2021.

Before 2020, under Arizona's old system, individuals seeking protection through the courts had to fill out their Orders of Protection/Injunctions Against Harassment in person. It was a paper-based system from beginning to end. Courts were issuing over 42,000 Orders of Protection/Injunctions Against Harassment (OP/IAH) on average per year, but only approximately 50% were actually being served. A number of issues caused these delays, including an outdated statute, an existing statewide system that was paper-based, and a system that required the plaintiff to initiate the service of the Protective Orders. With these delays in the system, victims could be left in a volatile situation.

Additionally, under the AZPOINT system, the percentage of orders that are granted by a judge and are actually served has increased from 50% to 67%.

The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence stated, "AZPOINT has been a timely and positive utilization of technology for survivor safety. At a time when many survivors are at increased vulnerability due to the impacts of COVID-19, AZPOINT makes it possible for them to petition for an Order of Protection from any location and connect with an advocate to plan for current and future safety, all without a need for childcare or missing a day of work. AZPOINT has been a critical advancement in protecting Arizona's survivors and their families."

The Arizona Protective Order Initiation and Notification Tool (AZPOINT) was established to increase public safety by enhancing access and efficiency for the Order of Protection and Injunctions Against Harassment process for the public, law enforcement and the judicial system.

"Nothing makes our cross-agency systems improvement team happier than when a complex project makes a dramatic impact in the lives of individuals who need help the most," stated ACJC Executive Director Andrew T. LeFevre. "Creating better and more accessible systems, cutting down on red tape, and providing greater resources for survivors of domestic violence will continue to be a priority for our agency."

Visit <https://azpoint.azcourts.gov/>

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Created in 1982, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) is a statutorily authorized entity mandated to carry out various coordinating, monitoring and reporting functions regarding the administration and management of criminal justice programs in Arizona. The ACJC serves as a resource and service organization for Arizona's criminal justice community on a myriad of issues ranging from drugs, gangs and victim assistance to criminal history and crime laboratory enhancements.